UPCOMING TOWN HALL

Sahag Yedalian – How Do I....?
Field Deputy for Councilman Paul Kerkorian

For Valley Glen residents, there is no more key ally in making government work for our community than Sahag Yedalian, the Field Deputy for Councilman Paul Kerkorian. Sahag has been a positive, tireless supporter of the VGNA and brings practical, effective resources to bear upon events, issues, and complaints. Sahag will give a summary of Councilman Kerkorian’s 2017 agenda and any LA City actions and items that directly affect Valley Glen. He will then open the floor and take your “How Do I...” questions about specific problems that are affecting you, your family, your residence, and your neighborhood. Everybody in attendance will learn something about how to get things done in Valley Glen.

Eric Swelstad – Enjoy the Arts at Valley College!
Department Chair Media Arts

Most Valley Glen residents are aware that Valley College will be opening a new 78 million dollar Performing Arts Center in 2018. This will begin a whole new era for the college and for our community. But so much is going on now already! Mr. Swelstad will educate us about the many theater, music, dance, film, and photography events that take place regularly at Valley College. Come get on the department mailing list and stay tuned to the performing arts calendar. Enjoy a brief, special performance by talented Valley College students!

Los Angeles Police Department Report
Senior Lead Officers (SLO’s) Katy Paschal & Jennifer DuVally

Our local SLO officers are so generous with their time in coming to report upon crime and other law enforcement issues and trends in Valley Glen. They are always willing to answer questions and have important tips for the safety of our neighborhoods. Stay in touch with and learn from our public servants.

Nominations for VGNA Executive Board

It’s time for elections. At the upcoming Town Hall, you will have a chance to nominate candidates of your choice for the VGNA Executive...
Message from the Board

Hello Neighbors,

2017 is flying by, and we welcome the opportunity to touch base with you about the VGNA, Valley Glen, and your neighborhood. Connectivity is our goal. At our various events and Town Halls, we meet so many neighbors who are interested in lending a hand to improve Valley Glen. When we reach out to schools and businesses, we meet more good people who want to contribute. As the year begins, we are setting simple goals to improve our community. We will be asking for your help.

In 2017 the VGNA is focused on two primary missions. Firstly, we are forming our “VGNA Clean Team” to make an appreciable dent in the cleanliness of our neighborhoods. Secondly, we want to build upon the mutually beneficial partnership that we have begun with our local schools. These missions are complementary because we will be helped by Grant High student volunteers in our Clean Team efforts.

We have so much potential in partnering with and serving our schools (including the college and our grammar schools). We have strong allies like Eric Swelstad, the Chair of Media and Theater Arts, at Valley College, who will be speaking at our upcoming March 21 Town Hall, and Amy Bazikian, the PSA Counselor at Grant High, who is profiled in this newsletter. These are smart, capable people who share the VGNA’s vision for the community coming to schools and the schools going out to community.

The VGNA has a proud tradition that has been established by many neighbors who have cared enough to give their time and talents to our community. We encourage you to join us and connect with this tradition. One of your first opportunities will be to participate in our upcoming executive board elections. Nominations will be taken at the March 21 Town Hall. The voting will be done at a special VGNA Election Meeting on Tuesday, April 25, 2017.

Meanwhile, please visit the VGNA website, check us out on Facebook, or sign up to be a Clean Team volunteer. If you have skills or ideas for Valley Glen or the VGNA or would like to contribute in other ways (delivering newsletters, selling ads, etc.) please let us know. We promise that you will enjoy your time helping your community, getting to know your neighbors, and making a difference for the families, schools, and businesses in Valley Glen.

VGNA 20th Anniversary Celebration
Tuesday, June 20 Town Hall

Neighbors, you may have noticed the 20th Anniversary Banner on the front page of this newsletter. Yes, the VGNA has been active in Valley Glen for over two decades, and we are planning to celebrate past, present, and future at our Town Hall in June. Please mark that date on your calendars. You will not want to miss it!

Your VGNA Board:

Dean Abston
President

Bruce Gaims
Vice President

Angela Consolo-Rossi
Interim Secretary

Gerhard Runken
Treasurer

Richard Rossi
Director of Communications

Angela Consolo-Rossi
Grid Captain

Representatives:

Area A: Mickey Jannol
Harry Norton
Joan Gil

Area B: Dean Abston
Gerhard Runken
Edie/Sid Yukelson
Pat Lloyd

Area C: Peer Ghent
Janne Bissett

Grid 1: Bruce Gaims

Grid 2: Joanne D’Antonio

Grid 3: Linda Carreon
Regla Vera

Grid 4: Michael Rosenzweig
Asta Criss

Grid 5: Carlos Ferreyra
Howard Gradet
Pat Kovach

Grid 6: Michael Merzlaking

Grid 7: Mirna Pajuelos
Francisca Reynoso

Grid 8: Eileen Martin
Robin Shaefer
I AM AMY BAZIKIAN

Amy Bazikian – Grant High School – PSA Counselor

Imagine getting up each morning and heading to your office where your job is to look after the welfare of over 2,000 high school students with diverse economic, social, and ethnic backgrounds. If any one of those students is having issues that affect their chances of graduating, then you provide solutions that lead to a positive outcome. That sounds like a job for a superhero, right?

Fortunately, Grant High School, the only public high school in Valley Glen and a primary landmark in our community, has a superhero in Amy Bazikian, their Pupil Services and Attendance (PSA) Counselor. Amy has all of the attributes that you would expect the work would require: worldliness, education, energy, creativity, resolve, and enormous compassion.

Amy’s path to Grant High School is a true American tale. She was born in an Armenian family in Iran. She emigrated to Germany when she was a young adult to reunite with her fiancé. After marriage, Amy and her husband came to America, when she was in her twenties. She then earned her B.A. in Social Work and her Masters in Marriage and Family Therapy from California State University, Los Angeles. While in graduate school, she interned in schools and knew that was where she belonged. She was hired at LAUSD in 2004, worked at Thomas Star King Middle School for a year and a half, then transferred to Ulysses S. Grant High School in 2005.

On paper, Amy’s job description might read “to promote student success and strong attendance, dropout continued on page 4

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I am Valley Glen!
It has been two decades since the VGNA was formed by Valley Glen residents who wanted to make a positive impact on the quality of life in their neighborhoods. Over the years the community has changed, and the VGNA has adapted its mission, its priorities, and its message to the times. In every era, the organization has been served by sincere people who bring different skills and talents to bear upon the shape of the organization and its actions in the community.

For example, for much of the first decade after its birth, the VGNA toiled in the political arena for official recognition of our community. It was not until 2003 that the City of Los Angeles designated Valley Glen as a city. And it was not until 2008 that the U.S. Post Office allowed Valley Glen to be recognized nationally.

Throughout its history the VGNA has served residents in many different valuable capacities: informational newsletters, community meetings, clean up campaigns, park festivals, holiday celebrations and food donations, fostering Neighborhood Watch and safety awareness, building alliances with local government, police, and fire, and partnering with local businesses.

Amy Bazikian continued from page 3

prevention, parent and community partnership by means of counseling, mentorship, incentives, and donations”. In daily practice, however, she works face-to-face with up to twenty pupils and families, getting involved with students’ lives on and off campus as necessary. She often visits with parents in their residences to discuss how their son or daughter might improve attendance, social behavior, or academic performance.

Amy’s willingness to reach out to the community has been a win-win for Grant High School, the VGNA, and Valley Glen. Both the 2016 Valley Glen Spring Festival and Clean Up Day events would not have been nearly as successful or enjoyable without the squadrons of student volunteers that she recruited. Amy appreciates the results and looks forward to a valuable partnership with the VGNA.

In her spare time Amy is involved in community work and likes to read history. Sometimes while doing errands, she runs into students from years past. Understandably, she does not always remember their names, but she does remember their faces and everything about the situation that brought her, their PSA Counselor, into their lives. Weren’t they the lucky ones?

VGNA Town Hall / Meeting Location: Concorde College

A sincere thanks to the generosity and support of Concorde College president Carmen Bowen and her staff for making a home for our Town Hall meetings:

Concorde College, 12412 Victory Blvd, Room 003, in North Hollywood
6:30 pm Meet & Greet
7:00 pm Start

You can go to www.vgna.org and click to get a map to the college or a copy of the meeting room floor map.

continued on page 6
An ordinance amending LAMC Section 85.02 was recently enacted to prohibit the use of vehicles for lodging on streets within the City of Los Angeles. LA City Attorney, Tamar Galatzan, outlined the ordinance and what it means for Valley Glen residents at the VGNA’s January 17th Town Hall. She reminded residents that the person, not the vehicle, would be cited, and that penalties increase for repeated citations.

Following are the new regulations which took effect January 7, 2017:

- **Proximity To Parks, Schools, Pre-schools, and Daycare facilities** – Living in a vehicle is prohibited at all times within 500 feet of parks, licensed schools, pre-schools, and daycare facilities.
- **Daytime (6am to 9pm)** – Persons may live in their vehicles in most areas of the City that are more than 500 feet away from parks, licensed schools, pre-schools, and daycare facilities.
- **Nighttime (9pm to 6am)** – Persons may only live in their cars in specifically designated, non-residentially zoned areas that are more than 500 feet away from parks, licensed schools, pre-schools, and daycare facilities.
- **At All Times** – Persons living in their vehicles must comply with all posted parking restrictions, and all vehicles parked on a City street must be registered with the DMV and insured. Any vehicle parked on a City street for 72 hours or more can be reported as an abandoned vehicle.

continued on page 6
Maps detailing where vehicle living is allowed (“green” streets), restricted (“yellow” streets), and prohibited (“red” streets) are available on the City’s website at www.lacity.org/vehicledwelling. To find specific Valley Glen street designations, select “Van Nuys Area Community Police Station”. For assistance with general questions, call 3-1-1 or email 311@lacity.org.

Living in vehicles continued from page 5

In 2017, the VGNA is again entering a new era. We now maintain an up-to-date modern website, are communicating via social media, and have efficient processes to manage data and other areas of organizational business. Also, we will shortly be reclassified as a 501c3 organization, which will assist greatly in the charitable fundraising we need to do to support our work for Valley Glen.

We would ask that each and every Valley Glen resident make some contribution, financial and/or personal time or talent, to the VGNA and our mission. You can be assured that your generosity will be manifest in an improved quality of life for you, your family, and your neighbors. It’s really that simple.

Check out our website at: www.vgna.org

Not getting our emails: Sign-up at www.vgna.org

Check us out on Facebook: Valley Glen Neighborhood Association

VGNA SERVICES DIRECTORY

Need to know which number to call to remove graffitti? Want to reach your local police? Need to speak to the mayor? A posse of hedgehogs invaded your backyard and you don’t know who to call? The VGNA publishes an annual services directory for residents with all the important local and city phone numbers and email addresses. Download your copy from www.valleyglen.org or you can pick one up at the next VGNA community meeting.
If you are a Valley Glen resident, you have no doubt seen the little libraries that are peppered throughout our neighborhoods in front of certain houses. These libraries allow neighbors to donate, borrow, and return books whenever they please. They are fostered by Little Free Library (LFL), a worldwide non-profit organization.

Sandy Ginsberg and husband David were inspired by a friend in Phoenix to build their own little library (kits can be purchased) at their home at 13454 Sylvan Street. Sandy and David grew up in the San Fernando Valley, met at CSUN, and have three grown-up children. They have been living in their cozy home (it's the same

continued on page 8
one that David grew up in) for about ten years. David works for DWP, and Sandy is a therapist.
Sandy had her doubts about whether the little library would be used. She handed out flyers in her neighborhood, served cookies and punch at the “grand opening”, and the book “business” has been booming ever since. In fact the Ginsbergs manage an overflow of donated books in their garage.
Sandy enjoys reading reference books. In their little library, children’s books are the most popular. So popular, they sometimes don’t come back. No worries! When the supply is running low Sandy gets a great deal at the thrift store and can re-stock a handful of kid-worthy titles for fifty cents apiece.
Doing yard work is when the Ginsbergs most often meet little library users. They get a lot of thank-you’s. One new neighbor down the street had her books buried in boxes and was so grateful to walk down the street and find reading to satisfy her thirst.
Big kudos to Sandy and David, and the many other Valley Glen residents who are LFL librarians. They are improving literacy and togetherness in Valley Glen. If you would like more info about LFL, please contact https://littlefreelibrary.org/ or the local LFL steward, Doug & Jean Chadwick, at info@theliteracyclub.org.

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY LOCATIONS
• 13454 Sylvan Street, Valley Glen: East side of Sunnyslope Avenue (north of Oxnard)
• 6665 Mammoth Avenue: (South of Archwood Street) West side of Allott Avenue (at corner of Hatteras Street)
• 13440 Hartland Street: (East of Sunnyslope Avenue)
• 13446 Hartland Street: (East of Sunnyslope Avenue) Southside of Hamlin Street (East of Ranchito Avenue)
• 6240 Sylmar Avenue: (at Van Nuys Station of LAPD)
• 13601 Riverside Drive, Sherman Oaks
• 5022 Ranchito Avenue, Sherman Oaks: Huston Street (East of Morse Avenue)
SPRING 2017 – LAVC Music Department Concert Series

FREE WEDNESDAY CONCERT
Diana Tash, soprano…and Friends!
March 22, 2017
Music Recital Hall – Room 106 –
1:00pm
FREE

VALLEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
“3M Concert – Mehul, Mendelssohn &
Mozart”
Saturday, March 25, 2017
Featuring Dr. Yih-Mei Hu, piano
Dr. Michael Arshagouni, conductor
Main Stage Theater – 7:00pm
General $25; Students/Seniors $15;
LAVC Students $12

LAVC WIND ENSEMBLE
“Women Composers”
Chauncey Maddren, conductor
Monday, March 27, 2017 - 7:00PM
Main Stage Theater
Tickets: $5 General

LAVC GUITAR SERIES
Gregory Newton, Jordan Charnofsky
and Friends
Fundraiser for the LAVC
Guitar Program
Saturday, April 22, 2017
Music Recital Hall - Room 106 - 8:00pm
Tickets: $20 General, $15 Seniors, $10 AGS
members and students

For a complete listing of all the A&E venues,
please visit: www.vgna.org/a&e

LAFC THEATER ARTS

THE ROBBER BRIDEGROOM
An irreverent, jubilant musical comedy based on the short story by
Eudora Welty, The Robber Bridegroom is the Southern-fried Robin
Hood tale of Jamie Lockhart, a dangerous, handsome, backwoods
rogue who’s a gentleman by day and bandit by night. When he
falls for Rosamund, the beautiful daughter of a wealthy planter, his
world is turned upside down. Throw in an evil stepmother intent
on Rosamund’s demise, her pea-brained henchman and a hostile
talking head-in-a-trunk, and you have a rollicking, foot-stomping
country romp.
This rousing, bawdy Southern fairytale has a book and lyrics by
Alfred Uhry, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of Driving Miss
Daisy. The score, by Robert Waldman, is one of the only genuine
bluegrass scores ever heard in a Broadway musical. Since opening
on Broadway in 1975, The Robber Bridegroom has gone on to
become a regional favorite and was recently seen in an acclaimed
off-Broadway revival.

Los Angeles Valley College
5800 Fulton Ave. Valley Glen, CA 91401

Thursday-Sunday,
March 23-26
Evenings at 8pm
Matinees at 2pm
LAVC Horseshoe Theater
Tickets $15-$20

It’s all here in our town.
Our community has fabulous
private and public establishments
that feature fine arts and
entertainment. On any given day or
night you can immerse yourself and
enjoy life.
In partnership with the Department of Water and Power-Recycled Water Division, Recreation and Parks is making changes at the Valley Glen Community Park in order to conserve water consumption through turf removal and elimination of old and inefficient irrigation equipment. This project will include the installation of a new irrigation system, new California friendly plant material, new decomposed granite paving, wood bark/D.G. mulch covering, reseeded natural grass and new landscape accent boulders. Construction is scheduled to be completed this summer!
SUMMER MOVIE NIGHTS IN THE PARK

For more info, please visit: www.greatervalleyglencouncil.org/calendar

VALLEY GLEN PARK CONCEPTUAL LANDSCAPE DESIGN WATER CONSERVATION PROJECT
Last November 12th, in partnership with Councilman Kerkorian’s office and the Greater Valley Glen Council (GVGC), the VGNA participated in a very successful, gratifying “Clean-Up Day” in our community. Using brooms, rakes, and other tools (and the power of LA City’s 3-1-1 mobile app) VGNA members and its partners took action to remove trash, graffiti, and discarded belongings that had accumulated and become a blight on our neighborhoods and streets.

In 2017, the VGNA has decided to make clean up of Valley Glen “more than just a day”. Beginning in March, on the last Saturday of each month, we will muster members and volunteers from 11AM to 2PM. We will select Valley Glen grid zones each month on a rotating basis and deploy our VGNA Clean Team to do its earnest work.

In this effort we are receiving some welcome, essential assistance. Sahag Yedalian, Councilman Kerkorian’s Field Deputy, has arranged to lend us the tools, bags, safety vests, and gloves for the work. Amy Bazikian, the PSA Counselor at Grant High, will partner to provide a squadron of student volunteers to assist with the labor and 3-1-1 app reporting.

Those who participated in the Clean-Up Day last November can attest to the personal gratification that they felt afterwards. Besides being proud of a cleaner neighborhood, many volunteers received heartfelt thank you’s from fellow neighbors who happened upon their work.

We hope many Valley Glen citizens will see the value in the VGNA Clean Team and offer to contribute. If the number of people on the team grows, there is no reason why we cannot expand the scope and detail of our efforts. If you are interested in joining the VGNA Clean Team, please e-mail to cleanup@vgna.org. If we all pitch in, Valley Glen will be a cleaner, more pleasant place to live!

Next Clean-Team Event
Saturday
March 25, 2017
10 am to 1 pm

Need to Request a City Service?
Call 3-1-1

By calling 3-1-1 or using the MyLA311 App, you can access more than 1,500 non-emergency services provided by the City of Los Angeles.

Here are a few of these services: Bulky item pickup, pothole repair, tree trimming, trash bin replacement, street light problem, graffiti removal, sidewalk repair, etc.

My311 App available in the App Store and on Google Play. Or visit: www.lacityorg/myla-311